

Natural Resources Protective Association

Coalition Against Water Disposal of Contaminated Sediments

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In Memory of Edward "Kerry" Sullivan

SUMMER 2021

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OAKWOOD MARSH 2021 CLEAN UP

By Jim Scarcella

In late March, NRPA, Kayak Staten Island and members of the Farrell H.S. Marine Biology department led by Jenn Frydberg did a big clean up at Oakwood Beach at the Tarlton Avenue street end. This spot has had a terrible illegal dumping problem recently and it was past time to get it addressed. Howie Fishbein led the charge by moving a bed's box spring and Jim followed up by removing plywood and insulation. There also was a pile of cookbooks and travel guides, household items and the remains of a fire near the center of the paved area.

We set up the table, everyone was masked and we went over the ground rules about working in teams and flagging possible hazards. Rich Brown, Jack Bolembach, Chuck Perry, Cathy, Roberto, and Anthony worked on removing the garbage that was down Cedar Grove Avenue, towards the Oakwood Beach Wastewater Treatment Control Plant. We pulled out an auto tire with a steel rim, and I saw a children's toy, a plastic Elmo from Sesame Street. Howard and Vince set the killie pot (a funneled fish trap) with bread in the murky waters of Oakwood Creek.

The Farrell HS students and Scouts were great, documenting the garbage they picked up. Katie Leung and Nicole Doz pitched in, also. Tony Rose gave a brief educational lesson about environmental ecology for the students. The edge of the marsh had plaster, gypsum, and tile mixed with spackle and masonry. There was an empty cat litter bucket and several plastic bags thrown in the water. On the medical side there was prescription bottles, vape equipment, a

pregnancy test indicator and a glass tobacco pipe. There was also a 'Wu Tang' DVD, number 4 of 7.

The team walked over the berm to clean up around the beach itself. There were plastic containers, straws, and cigarette butts. Also, NO thanks to the person who left a bright orange City Wide Container Services 'T' shirt filled with paint chips and plaster. Nice image of the truck, though.

We saw Brant Geese and Herring Gulls. Back at the marsh, the receding tide fully exposed a Sony 25-inch television (not a flatscreen). Rich Brown and I went into the phragmites and lifted the TV out of the marsh and onto the debris pile, Elmo appeared to really enjoy it.



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Howie Fishbein and Vince retrieved the killiepot from the creek, and it was full of killiefish (mummichog) a denizen of our freshwater marshes. Some killies were almost 4 inches long and an inch wide. These were banded killifish. Less common are striped killifish, which are more suited to ocean conditions.

Our efforts at conservation worked, we gathered almost 800 lbs. of trash and debris, with over 25 lbs. of aluminum and glass containers recycled. We have a full complement of beach and shoreline clean ups scheduled for Autumn 2021. Please join us for some fun and excitement!



RICHMOND TERRACE PARK 2021 CLEAN UP

By Jim Scarcella

In April 2021, NRPA cleaned up Richmond Terrace Park in Mariners Harbor. This salt marsh and upland area was a police chief's home in the 1900's and became the home for abandoned barges and sloops.

For many years it was a derelict property and abandoned cars were



even dumped here. In 2008, when the North Shore Waterfront Conservancy adopted this area under the Blue Streets program, we carried parts of abandoned cars and boats into dumpsters on Richmond Terrace. Fortunately, Councilperson Debi Rose and Assembly member Charles Fall got the funding together to authorize the Parks Dept. to oversee and clean the site and construct a waterfront park. The park opened in December 2019.

In April 2021, NRPA arrived at the site and distributed gloves, bags and refreshments along with reminders about maintaining social distance. We were joined by Tony Rose, Rich Brown, Nicole Doz, Rebecca G, Rob Trancico, Anthony, Mike Schnall, Kyle Clandorf, Melissa Boo and Ben of NYU, and more great people. Howie Fishbein and Jack Bolembach helped out, also. There were 126 plastic bottles, about 180 bottle caps, dozens of cigarette butts, over 80 plastic bags, strapping bands, pieces of tugboat rope, broken dock buffer, a copper angle from a boat, a deceased rooster missing a head and more garbage. A hot water heater with a shattered glass tank and jacketed insulation was lifted and pushed up the embankment. About 600 lbs. of trash was collected.

Melissa Boo and Ben of NYU applied mulch to the street trees on the site, with help from Rebecca Del Vecchio of Assembly member Charles Fall's office.

We set the killifish trap, baited it with crumpled cookies and we trapped and released three mummichog. However, we saw hundreds of mummichog and a pair of Canada geese were happy that we cleaned the shoreline.

At the conclusion of the clean-up, the Parks Dept packer truck pulled up and the Parks employees started to throw rusted rebar, the hot water heater, the shipping crate pallet, and over 20 bags of garbage into the truck. Great timing!

NRPA, Baykeeper and NYU Environmental Studies people will continue to clean our beaches and shorelines. Many thanks to all who turned out and helped!

THE SEA TURTLES OF NEW YORK

By Ida Sanoff

The water has warmed up and it's almost time to go swimming. Well, the sea turtles in our area are thinking the same thing!

Many people think that sea turtles live only near Florida or California. Most do breed in those areas. But when summer comes, several species of sea turtles travel through the waters surrounding the New York metro area. They can be found here from May through November and prefer the slightly warmer water of Long Island Sound and the coastal bays. When the weather cools down, they head south, back to their breeding grounds. Unfortunately, all are threatened or endangered species.

Loggerhead Sea Turtles are the most commonly encountered species in the NY area. Their name comes from their massive, head, which is shaped like a log. That big head is formed around powerful jaws, which are needed to chomp through their shellfish diet. They can even eat horseshoe crabs. Their upper shell is a reddish brown and their belly shell is yellow. The status of the Loggerhead is *Threatened* both in NYS and on the Federal level.



The Green Sea Turtle can be found from Massachusetts all the way to Texas. It was named for its green body fat and cartilage, which is related to its primarily vegetarian diet. They frequent sea grass beds off of eastern Long Island. The Green Sea Turtle is listed as *Threatened* by NYS. However, on the Federal level, some parts of the population are listed as *Endangered*



in NYS and also at the Federal level.

The Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle is the second most common turtle in our area. It's the smallest sea turtle, weighing only about 100 pounds and it has a gray/green, heart shaped upper shell. It too has powerful jaws that can chomp through shellfish, but it eats fish and jellyfish too. They are found in fairly shallow water off Long Island, but they can be seen in Lower NY Harbor and Jamaica Bay too. It has been estimated that worldwide, the nesting population is only about 1,000 females. It is listed as *Endangered* by both NYS and at the Federal level.

and others are listed as *Threatened*.

The Leatherback Sea Turtle is a giant, growing up to almost seven feet long and weighing up to a ton. Their diet is primarily jellyfish, which is also their downfall. All of those plastic bags floating in and on the water look just like jellyfish to the turtle, but eating them results in deadly intestinal blockages. While other turtles have hard, bony shells, the leatherback is covered with a blue/black leathery, flexible skin.



Like all other turtles, it's a reptile. But in contrast to other turtles which are stunned and become immobile when they encounter colder temperatures, the Leatherback can regulate its body temperature and tolerate colder waters. It is found as far north as Canada. In our area, it is found off the coast of Long Island and within the New York Bight too. If you draw an imaginary line between Montauk, Long Island and Cape May, New Jersey. the triangular shaped area of water between that line and land is called the New York Bight. The Leatherback is listed as *Endangered*



faster increases in water temperatures than any other place on the planet. Consequently, they linger here longer than they should. And when the water temperature drops suddenly, they become cold stunned and wash up on shore.

It is up to all of us to help protect these turtles. We can start by properly disposing of trash. Plastic bags, straws, gloves, etc. that are dropped in the street end up washing into their habitat via storm drains. The first weekend of summer brings



Please cut the strings on your mask when you throw them away.

Our wildlife is getting stuck in them.

Reaching as many people as possible: please pass on...



loads of people to our beaches and they leave mountains of trash behind, which washes and blows into the water. And if you ever come across a sea turtle that appears stunned or injured, you should call the NYS 24 Hour Stranding Hotline – 631-369-9829. Don't drag it back into the water, where it may drown. Call the professionals!

Remember – healthy marine life is up to us!

ENVIRONMENTAL NIGHTMARE STRIKES ISLAND PARK

By Tony Rose

On Wednesday, March 31, 2021, a fire broke out in an industrial area near Grandview Avenue in Mariners Harbor, Staten Island. The black plume of smoke was visible across the North Shore. Expanding into a 5-alarm blaze, firefighters from across the island joined local Bravest to quell the fire.

Burning was a warehouse hosting a variety of commercial concerns. A significant issue was storage of assorted automotive supplies, fuel



(continued next page)

and lubricating oils as well as brake fluid, coolant and transmission oils.

As the fire department poured water on the building to control the outbreak, ruptured containers spilled their contents onto surrounding streets. FDNY applied booms and hay bales to try to prevent these materials from entering the nearby storm sewer drainage but were unable to control the runoff. The sewer grates that drain the end of Grandview Avenue led to the railroad cut servicing the long-disused North Shore rail line.



This toxic material flowed into the local natural drainage, headed eventually to the Kill Van Kull or the Arthur Kill; familiar recipients of this, the latest in a long history of unnatural disasters.

However, on its way to the sea, this cocktail of hideous material traveled along the railway right of way and flowed into a culvert leading to the already contaminated Mariners Marsh Park.

Mariners Marsh is a city property acquired in the late 90's, with plans for it to be converted into a nature park.

Crisscrossed by trails and ponds, Mariners Marsh is a post-industrial site that has returned to nature. Home to a steelmaker with a blast furnace, manufacturers and ship-building industries, the Marsh has natural and man-made ponds that were used for cooling and waste disposal during its long industrial past. Activity at the site slowed after World War One. The soil along the entire area is known to be contaminated with heavy metals such as arsenic, mercury, cadmium and lead. Hydrocarbons from petroleum products as well as coal-tar residues lace the entire park with

waste. Remediation and restoration activities have progressed over the past 10-20 years and the park has been the beneficiary of focus groups seeking a new vision for the park. Although open for hiking and birdwatching, a wider mission has been seen as imminent.

Bill Morris is a long-time presence in Mariners Marsh Park. He has served as president of a Marsh Conservancy and is seen daily behind a wheelbarrow clearing debris or hauling wood chips to reinforce the trails that wind through the trees. The patron saint of Mariners Marsh, Bill has worked tirelessly longer than anyone can remember, pushing elected officials, directing volunteers and assisting Parks Department employees in rehabilitating the site.

In spite of its industrial past, the park is filled with life. The place is a remarkable pastoral experience. In between rusted ore buckets, piles of iron slag and tumbled down concrete foundations, beautiful scenes of the ponds and wildlife reward and refresh the visitor to this oasis in the middle tumble-down houses, a junkyard and illegal dumping sites. Foraging tours teach participants how to find green items for salads and teas. There is edible fungus and berries. Wildlife abounds. Deer visit the park regularly. Squirrels, rabbits, groundhogs and a variety of birds are regularly seen. Lately foxes have been sighted, certainly benefiting from the flourishing rodent population. In the past, beavers inhabited the park; trees gnawed to a point dot the terrain along the streams running through the area. Most of the ponds, in spite of the cars, tires and bicycles tossed into them, sported a variety of fish species.

But now, in three of the ponds, all the fish are gone. Floating bellies-up, hundreds of fish dotted the shore as the oily sheen rimmed the ponds. Birds and turtles feasted on the unexpected buffet which certainly attracted rats and the recently seen foxes.

Initial calls to 311 about the disaster drew little response. But as calls were sent to local Parks and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) officials, a rapid, massive response was initiated.

Funded initially by insurance money, Miller Environmental is leading an aggressive professional response to the oily incursion. The first step is mitigation; attempting to minimize damage as oil continues to flow into the Marsh. The company's workers cut a new channel to funnel the volatile runoff to a specific pond where they are employing booms and skimmers to remove the oil.

At the origin site, the presence of asbestos in the warehouse prevents stabilization of leaking containers. Asbestos abatement procedures must precede clean-up.

Meanwhile, workers are spending 12-hour days, seven days a week in



full hazmat suits dealing with the waste. Hay bales are so last century as workers spread the creeks with mats called sweep to soak up the oil. Unlike previous versions of absorbents, sweep is hydrophobic and repel water as they absorb oil and other fluids in this witch's brew of toxic contaminants. Brightly colored cheerleader pom poms seem strangely out of place in this scene of death and disaster. These clusters of long, thin, colorful ribbon,

like activated charcoal, provide an abundance of surface area for oil to cling to as they bob in the water attached to floating containment booms. The oil coating the pompom strands can then be removed and recycled or the devices can be placed into secure, lined landfills.

Following mitigation, the next step will be remediation, where oil-soaked soils are removed and pools of oil are eliminated. In Alaska, oil still seeps from the ground, forming rainbows along the shore where the petroleum from the Exxon Valdez grounding 30 years ago provoked scenes of oily shorebirds and dead seals and dolphins.

The final step, restoration, appears to be a far-off dream and questions of resources and funding hide in the distance below the horizon. It will remain an open question for quite some time when, or even if, fish can be restored to the ponds.

While the government response has been rapid and professional, and the environmental relief has been aggressive, this has been an environmental tragedy for a site that seemed filled with promise and seemed poised to welcome an adoring public.

This event has been progressing with little or no public notice and the Environmental Communicators will continue to monitor the situation, communicating with Parks Department officials, the state DEC and managers from Miller Environmental.

GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE (EARTH) DAY ON THE KILL VAN KULL

By Jim Scarcella

In April 2021, NRPA joined with United activities Unlimited (UAU) and Environmental Communicators to clean the Kill van Kull River at Snug Harbor. We assembled just west of the bus stop at Richmond Terrace, about 800 feet east of Bard Avenue. Soon we were joined by Maria and Alexis of Port Richmond High School, Dawn from UAU, and about a dozen students. Also, Steven from Pack 25 in Richmondtown joined us, and Rich Brown and Tony Rose of Environmental Communicators and Kayak Staten Island.



We distributed equipment and gave a safety and procedures talk, to work in pairs, mask up and have fun. Quickly it became apparent that this was no ordinary beach clean-up, the shoreline here hadn't been cleaned in 16 years. Ed Burke, Deputy Borough President for Staten Island, and Irene Maiello stopped by with supplies for the Anti-Litter Campaign. Council Candidate Mike Schanll, David Hernandez from CM Rose office lend a hand. Also, thanks to Chuck Perry, Howie, Kyle Clandorf, Roy Fishman, Nicole Doz, Michael, Johnny Benedetto, Victor, Coast Guard Doris and Michael, also.

The garbage included a shopping cart, auto parts, household debris, dock buffer, 8 separate loops of tugboat rope, a yellow, water-saturated oil spill cleanup kit, plywood (busted) insulation material of all shapes n sizes ripped tarps, bottle caps, cigarette butts,



automobile tires, plastic wrappers, health sanitary products, beer bottles, plastic bottles, degreaser, an old oil barrel, and much more. Overall, we removed over 1500 lbs. of trash.

In addition, the 'killie pot' trapped a beautiful 'fantail' shrimp, very active and the youth were mesmerized by its stature and flow.

Please join us at our next clean up, you will be pleasantly surprised at how much fun, cleaning and learning goes on.

THE DREADED DREDGERS RETURN

By Tony Rose

This writer recently attended a Community Advisory Committee meeting of the Harbor Estuary Program. The HEP is chartered to, "convene partners, producing and disseminating science and data, and advancing better management across many jurisdictional boundaries and interests." It is supported by funding established in the Clean Water Act.

Its mission is fivefold:

- 1) Reduce pollution for a return of fishable/swimmable waters.
- 2) Protect and restore habitat
- 3) Improve waterfront access
- 4) Support port and maritime operations
- 5) Foster community understanding and involvement in decisions about the estuary.

The focus of this particular meeting was to hear from community members about the Billion Oyster Project and the impact of the proposed channel deepening and widening, particularly on Environmental Justice communities.

Before we discuss the meeting, let's have a few words about shipping channels in NY Harbor.

When we think of New York City, topics that come to mind are theater, finance, and fashion, but the NY/NJ Harbor, the mouth of the Hudson River, is the third busiest port in the United States. New York rose to prominence because of its large safe, sheltered harbor. The Hudson River was the superhighway of the 19th century and a gateway to America's interior. We still welcome

huge container ships and car carriers. Cruise ships dock in Brooklyn, Manhattan and Bayonne. These large vessels are longer than long. Some are wider than the recently enlarged Panama Canal. Bayonne Bridge officials just celebrated the completion of the Raise the Roadway initiative in order to prevent ships from striking the bridge when passing beneath. Our concern, right now, is their draft.

Merchant ships now draw about forty-five to feet. That is, they need water that deep to avoid striking bottom. At one point, ships could only pass through the Kill Van Kull on their way to Port Newark during high tide because they might otherwise bottom out. That is what endangered the bridge to Bayonne.

People worry that a terrorist bomb will sink the Staten Island ferry. The average depth of the harbor is 18 feet. If these boats stray from the marked channels they could run aground. Ferries to the Rockaways ground all the time. There are some naturally deep anchorages in Red Hook off the Brooklyn shore, but they are the exception. Most shipping channels in the harbor had to be dredged to a working depth and require regular maintenance dredging.

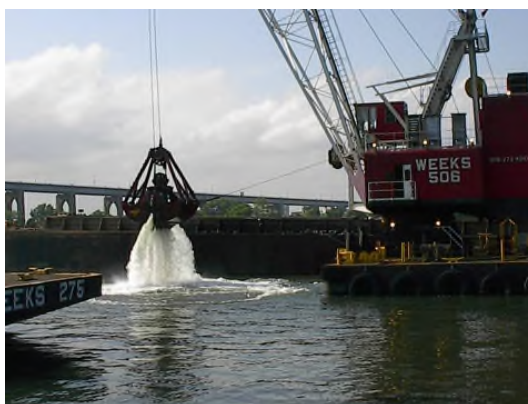
In the harbor, as the mouth of the Hudson River, as well as the Hackensack, Passaic, Raritan and Rahway rivers, silt is carried great distances only to be deposited in the harbor when their flow slows down. The Clean Air Act and The Clean Water Act have worked miracles since the 1970's when harbor water wore many colors from chemicals dumped into it and the Arthur Kill itself was a fire hazard.

Mud deposited in the harbor these days is relatively clean. Beneath these recently deposited layers lies



the legacy of New York's industrial past. Every city, every neighborhood was self-sufficient. There were few national or multinational corporations. Every neighborhood had an ironworks, a carriage maker, factories, tanneries and breweries. New York had extensive manufactories, mills, hat makers and paint factories. 'Mad as a hatter,' referred to the neurological deterioration suffered by millinery workers as a result of mercury used to process the beaver pelts favored by hat makers. Mercury gives off toxic vapors even at room temperature. Lead made paint more durable and ensured an even flow. It was still used in paints into the 1970's.

The list of toxins discarded into harbor waters is endless. Arsenic,



zinc, cadmium. More modern petroleum and plastic products include dioxin, polychlorinated biphenols (PCB's), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), phthalates, and other endocrine disrupters like insecticides and herbicides still flow through the harbor.

The NRPA was formed in the 1970's when Lou Figurelli learned that the Port Authority and the Army Corps of Engineers planned to place bulkheads in the Lower Bay off Staten Island and create an artificial island composed of the most toxic mud they planned to dredge from the bottom of NY Bay. An army of boaters, divers, fisherman, surfers, environmentalists, and conservationists rose up in horrified anger. The battle continues to this day. The Corps continues to bring up new and creative ways to dispose of contaminated mud. Like POW's trying to get rid of dirt scooped out of escape tunnels, the Corps of

Engineers repeatedly suggests we fill in the back third of Jamaica Bay, or recontour the 'borrow pits' off Staten Island's east shore or create man-made islands in the harbor composed of toxin-laden mud.

Fear not, they will cover this mud with three feet of clean sand. Superstorm Sandy showed us what they could do with three feet of sand. Constant vigilance has been required. It remains so, today.

This brings us to now. The channels are constantly dredged to maintain their safe, stated depth. Siltation never goes on vacation. Luckily, as industrial activity has slowed and legislation helped control pollution, maintenance dredging yields mud and sand that can be used in construction or as clean fill.

Bigger and bigger boats, containerized shipping and other aspects of modern commerce have presented the need for deeper channels. The routes across the harbor were deepened to 45 feet about ten years ago and after much agitation and years of drilling that made shorefront residents' dental fillings ache in sympathy, they are back knocking on the door. "Now, we need 50 feet."

Work in the Kill Van Kull and other areas required blasting with high explosives to attain the requisite depth. Advocacy by Beryl Thurman of the North Shore Waterfront Conservancy secured concessions from the Corps of Engineers. Upon request, they will send engineers to conduct a home survey to ascertain the condition of a home prior to their blasting in an area. That way, it will be clear what damage, if any was

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caused by harbor work.

So, the dance begins, discussion continues without anyone asking is there an endpoint to the game. How big can containerships get? How low can the Harbor be dredged? What is the limit of inconvenience and expense will residents endure?

LOTS OF FLOOD PLANS, BUT LITTLE PROTECTION

By Ida Sanoff

On the Thursday before the Memorial Day weekend, I stood on Brooklyn's Brighton Beach and watched the incoming tide go right past the lifeguard chairs. A few days later, as a mini nor'easter soaked the rest of the holiday weekend, I saw a video on a local blog of the high tide going even further past the lifeguard chairs. The person who posted the video commented that the Parks Department was waiting for the tide to recede before sending out the lifeguards. There was so much water coming in around the chairs that they were inaccessible.

So here we are, nine years after Hurricane Sandy. If you are like the rest of us, you spent untold hours in a blur of meetings, posting stickers and labels on maps showing where you lived, where you bought your quart of milk, where your kids went to school, etc. And you talked, talked, talked while sitting around countless round tables about what you wanted to see in terms of both flood protection and the community



amenities that were to go along with it, as facilitators dutifully recorded the comments on large display pads at each table. All of this was done to ensure that we "were being heard".

And for most of us, that's where the



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process began and ended. Nine years later, southern Brooklyn's beaches have badly eroded and we are sitting ducks.

Then I read an article in the May 11, 2021, New York Magazine entitled "The Destroy-It-to Save-It Plan for East River Park" about the flood



control plans for Manhattan. I've lost count of the flood control studies, environmental impact studies, public notices, etc., etc., that I've read since Sandy, but one stuck in my mind: *The Big U*. This was to be a series of flood protection measures all around Manhattan, from West 57th St., all around the Battery and back up to East 42nd St. It was to include, among other things, glass flood walls and wetlands near Battery Park City and flood gates decorated by local artists that would be installed under the FDR Drive, which would drop down in the event of flooding. A \$335 million HUD grant was awarded to a Danish architecture firm for designing this large, complicated flood control project. I don't think that anyone even thought about whether or not the FDR Drive structure could handle the weight of flood gates hanging from it or if glass flood walls even existed, but hey, for \$335 million, you can't expect them to sweat the small stuff right? It also somehow involved a plan to make lower Manhattan 500 feet longer using landfills at a cost of about \$10 billion. Yes, billion with a "B".

At any rate, the plan for the Lower East Side was basically to allow the parkland along the water to flood, as the Dutch use polders, then to make a flood wall between the park and the FDR, which would protect the housing and businesses, etc. It took five years to get to this point but everyone was on board with the plan and the community expected it to move forward.

But not so fast! All of a sudden, several of the agencies decided they weren't happy with the plan. The Dept. of Transportation (DOT) said they would have to close a lane of the FDR at night and by the time they set up and cleaned up, there was little time available each night for the work. And the Parks Dept. wasn't happy about having to maintain a park that would flood from time to time. (Or perhaps they didn't *know* how to maintain such a park?) And someone figured out that the flood wall along the FDR would be built on top of Con Ed high voltage power lines (there's a Con Ed plant on East 14th near the East River) that would need to be encased in a protective tunnel. But only the little people ever think of things like this, not the folks who get paid \$335 million to dream big dreams.

So after spending \$335 million for the overall plan, NYC got an outside panel of engineers to meet with all of the planners. The article doesn't say what they were paid, but I'll bet they weren't volunteers. But what's a few more million here and there? And they did a "value engineering review" and decided that using the parkland as a polder and putting a flood wall along the FDR was no good. They decided that it was better to bury the entire park in eight feet of fill (baseball courts, running tracks, barbecue areas, an amphitheater, etc.) and build a *new* park on top of it.

The community was not happy and several warring factions arose.

Many are questioning whether raising the park eight feet will be sufficient, given how quickly the sea level is rising. Some are saying that the new plans will fast forward gentrification, by burying a well-used, but not so pretty park for something a lot fancier. Others are

asking why the FDR is not being decked over to protect it.

There are so many issues that it will make your head spin. You can read the article here: <https://www.curbed.com/2021/05/east-river-park-nyc.html>

Meanwhile, here in southern Brooklyn, I am anticipating another summer of biting my nails every time a new storm system develops. If the surf is already past the lifeguard chairs on a king tide, it won't take much of a storm to push a tidal surge up the beach and onto the streets. The height of the beach has diminished significantly too because there is nothing to hold the sand in place. It gets eroded at the shoreline and the wind blows it away near the boardwalk. A few small patches of dune grass have been planted in isolated areas, but not enough to make an impact.

The Army Corps of Engineers told me a few years ago that they have an open authorization to replenish the beach, but the elected officials have to provide the funding to do it. Meanwhile, NYC has spent zillions of dollars on Know Your Zone booklets printed in a zillion different languages urging you to grab your little Go Bag and run to your life to your designated shelter. But many here who went to those shelters during Sandy said they were so horrific that they would rather take a chance staying in their darkened, flooded neighborhoods the next time around.

I cannot believe that nine years after Sandy, so little has been done to protect all of us.

CONFERENCE HOUSE PARK CLEANUP

By Jim Scarcella

At the start of May 2021, we joined NYCH₂O and St. Clare School to clean Conference House Park Beach in Tottenville. On this particular day, May came in like a lion, there were cool temperatures and a wild wind from the north.



and they washed up on Conference House Park Beach intact. It was like Nat Geo Explorer for a bit, we thought they were pterodactyl eggs.

At the southernmost corner of NY State, there are numerous oyster and clamshell "midden" piles, left by the Delaware Native Americans of the Lenape Nation. Unfortunately, there was a large amount of trash at this location, including beverage containers, menhaden bait packages, chicken parts, dog poop, plastic bags, old fishing gear, plastic bottles, plastic gloves, iced tea containers, Bud Light cans, a bottle of Jamison, a busted flashlight, a steel bluefish hook, and more. Chuck Perry and I hoofed a garbage can full of trash 600 feet down the beach and over the rip rap of the new pavilion to the pick-up point. A radial tire was retrieved and also a kid's foot-powered scooter.

Back at the tables, the pterodactyl eggs were a big hit with the youngsters, and Tony Rose taught a very informative class about horseshoe crab exoskeletons.

Special thanks to City Councilman Joe Borelli, NYCH₂O, Howie, Rob, Tony, Glenn, Ms. Mary Lee, and everyone who helped out. Join our next clean-up, you are guaranteed to have fun!

We set up in the parking lot near the Visitor's Center on Satterlee Street. I met Howie Fishbein and Robert Trocciola and they helped me unload the car. Within short order, we saw the white rental van of NYCH₂O (Matt Molina, Luis, David) and we helped them get started. We were joined by Ms. Mary Lee from St. Clare's School, Glenn Tobjy from Kayak Staten Island, and a few more people including John from Princess Bay Boatmen's Association, Chuck Perry, Tony Rose, Michael from Pack 24 Richmondtown, and it was great.



We walked the path south off the newly constructed Arthur Russell Pavilion, with great views of the Raritan River, Perth Amboy, and the Arthur Kill waterway. The wind was so strong it threatened to take our garbage bags skyward. We noticed an oddity on the beach right away, someone had thrown three hard-boiled Easter eggs into the water,

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Schedule of Events:

NRPA Calendar All events, including face to face monthly meetings are **TENTATIVE** due to **COVID-19**, please call to confirm Jim Scarcella to confirm - 718-873-4291

Sunday, July 11, 2021, Front Street Shoreline cleanup, from 10 AM to 12 PM. Meet behind the Clifton train station, between Edgewater and Thompson Streets. Sponsored by Anti-Litter Campaign, KSI, and Raiders of the Tossed Trash. Masks and distancing are required. Gloves bags refreshments provided, Community service certified. Info Jim Scarcella, 718-873-4291

Tuesday, September 7, 2021, 7:30 PM, NRPA monthly meeting (**tentative**), at SIUH North, Regina McGuinn Center or email notification for link for Zoom video meeting.

Saturday, September 18, 2021, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Sharrott Lowlands Arthur Kill cleanup with Protectors of Pine Oak Woods and NY State DEC for International Beach Cleanup day. Meet across from 155 Androvette Street, Kriesherville. Gloves bags refreshments provided; community service certified. Info: Jim Scarcella 718-873-4291

Saturday, October 2, 2021, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Lemon Creek (Lou Figurelli) Park, Seguine Avenue Beach Cleanup with NYC H2O Gloves, bags, refreshments provided, community service certified, sponsored by Councilman Borelli and Anti-Litter Campaign. Info: Jim Scarcella 718-873-4291

Tuesday, October 5, 2021, 7:30 PM, NRPA monthly meeting (**tentative**), at SIUH North, Regina McGuinn Center or email notification for link for Zoom video meeting.

Sunday, October 17, 2021, from 10 AM to 1:00 PM, Stapleton Waterfront Beach Cleanup with Kayak Staten Island. Meet at Front Street, Stapleton. Sponsored by BP Oddo and RCDA Mike McMahon Anti-Litter campaign, Environmental Education, Gloves, Bags, refreshments provided, cloth bag giveaway, community service certified. Info: Jim Scarcella, 718-873-4291.

Tuesday, November 2, 2021, 7:30 PM, NRPA monthly meeting (**tentative**), at SIUH North, Regina McGuinn Center or email notification for link for Zoom video meeting.

Saturday November 6, 2021, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Lemon Creek Park/Fishing pier Cleanup. Meet at Sharrott Avenue and Hylan Boulevard, Princes Bay with NYC Parks, Councilperson Borelli, and Baykeeper. Gloves, bags, and refreshments provided. Community service certified. Info: Jim Scarcella 718-873-4291

Saturday November 20, 2021, from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM, Beach Clean Up at Oakwood Beach, Tarlton Avenue. Sponsored by Baykeeper, Councilman Matteo, and Anti-Litter Campaign. Gloves, bags, refreshments provided, community service certified. Info: Jim Scarcella, 718-873-4291

Dedicated to preserving the marine environment, the Natural Resources Protective Association is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.

All memberships expire on December 31, so please renew NOW!

(All memberships paid after October 1 will also receive credit for the upcoming year)

Are You A Member? Have You Renewed? Please Join Us NOW!

- \$15.00 Individual**
 \$25.00 Organization
 \$500.00 Lifetime Member

- \$20.00 Family**
 \$100.00 Sponsor (after 5 payments you become Lifetime member)

YES! I/We want to join the fight!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mail to: Natural Resources Protective Association
 C/O Richard Chan, Treasurer
 Post Office Box 050328
 Staten Island, NY 10305

Join NRPA today